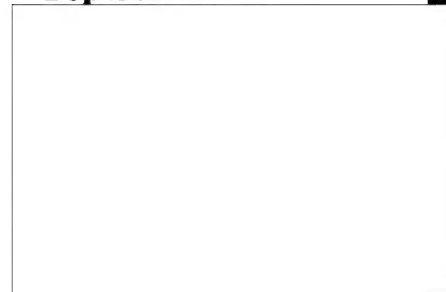




Director of
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③ CHINA-US: Foreign Concern About Relations

4 *Japan, the EC, and Australia increasingly are concerned that US ties with China will deteriorate over the Taiwan issue.*

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1 Following the visit to Washington last month by Japan's Foreign Minister, senior Japanese officials used a meeting with the Chinese to convey US views to Beijing about the consequences of a downturn in Sino-US relations and to express their own caution. The Japanese explicitly warned about sudden action over the Taiwan problem, asserting that any decline in cooperation between China and the US would only benefit the USSR.

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3 EC political directors recently discussed whether the Community should make a formal demarche to Washington to dramatize its concern on the same subject. Although they believe that the EC's modest economic ties with Beijing could be enhanced if US-Chinese relations worsened, they also fear that in the longer term Moscow would draw the primary political advantage. The directors decided against a demarche, however, and agreed that EC members should keep in close contact with Japan on the matter.

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2 This week the Australians officially stated that their talks with the Chinese have increased Canberra's concern about future US-China ties.

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4 Comment: Chinese officials have underscored the importance of the Taiwan issue in talks with both the Japanese and the Australians, largely to get that message to Washington. Since the early 1970s, Tokyo and Canberra have regarded the Sino-US connection as key to stability in East Asia and to China's opening to the West. The Japanese are particularly worried about cross pressures from both countries if their relations deteriorate.

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